

Remarks

Specification.

The information under "Related Applications" on page 1 of the specification has been updated.

Claims Objections and 35 U.S.C. s101 and s112.

The matters mentioned under these sections of the Office Action are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 to 19, which are replaced by new claims 20 to 46.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Ould-Brahim et al (US2003/0177221) and Arrow et al (US6226751) each concern how to interface a plurality of VPNs across a data network such as a provider data network (backbone 106 in Ould-Brahim) or a public data network (the internet 100 in Arrow). Neither of these references concerns how to interface any of a plurality of VPNs with a second data network connected to said plurality of VPNs via a first data network, the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by at least one of said plurality of VPNs and the first and second data networks being interfaced by a VPN media proxy (new claim 20). More particularly, neither of Ould-Brahim or Arrow is concerned with how to interface any of a plurality of VPNs with a carrier data network connected to said plurality of VPNs via a public data network (claim 22) or how to interface any of a plurality of VPNs with a switched telephone network via a carrier data network connected to said plurality of VPNs via a public data network (claim 24).

The claimed arrangement addresses the problems associated with the known communication system as discussed at page 3, line 13 to page 4, line 27 of the specification. Neither of Ould-Brahim or Arrow addresses these problems but deal with different issues relating to the connection of VPNs across a common data network.

Consequently, the amended claims submitted herewith are believed to define an invention which is not rendered obvious by the combination of Ould-Brahim and Arrow.

Favorable reconsideration is solicited.

May 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Halber", written over a horizontal line.

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